

WE CLAIM:

1. A communications system enabling voice communications over the internet between a local or remote phone and a destination phone comprising:
5 an internet protocol (IP) phone controller for operative connection to the local and remote phone and a computer operatively connected to the internet, the computer having communications software for managing voice over internet protocol communications between the local and remote phone and a destination phone through the phone
10 controller.
2. A communications system as in claim 1 wherein the remote phone is connected to the IP phone controller by a wired or wireless link.
- 15 3. A communications system as in claim 1 wherein the destination phone is any one of a local or remote phone operatively connected to a destination IP phone controller and destination computer operatively connected to the internet or a wireless or wired destination phone operatively connected to the internet through a public switched telephone network.
- 20 4. A communications system as in claim 1 wherein the communications software includes a menu system for selecting an internet phone provider.
5. A communications system as in claim 4 wherein the user dials a destination
25 number after selection of an internet phone provider.
6. A communications system as in claim 1 wherein the communications software enables accessing internet data.
- 30 7. A communications system as in claim 6 wherein the communications software includes a menu system for accessing internet data and the

communications software enables formatting of the data for delivery of the data to the user.

8. A communications system as in claim 6 wherein the communications software enables delivery of the data to the user via a text-to-speech module.

9. A communication system as in claim 6 wherein the internet data is email.

10. A communications system as in claim 2 wherein the destination phone is any one of a local or remote phone operatively connected to a destination IP phone controller and destination computer operatively connected to the internet or a wireless or wired destination phone operatively connected to the internet through a public switched telephone network.

11. A communications system as in claim 10 wherein the communications software includes a menu system for selecting an internet phone provider.

12. A communications system as in claim 11 wherein the user dials a destination number after selection of an internet phone provider.

13. A communications system as in claim 12 wherein the communications software enables accessing internet data.

14. A communications system as in claim 13 wherein the communications software includes a menu system for accessing internet data and the communications software enables formatting of the data for delivery of the data to the user.

15. A communications system as in claim 14 wherein the communications software enables delivery of the data to the user via a text-to-speech module.

16. A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the internet data is email.

17. A method for making a voice over internet protocol telephone call to a destination number from a remote telephone comprising the steps of:

- (a) dialling a phone number for an internet protocol (IP) phone controller operatively connected to a computer and the internet;
- (b) accessing an internet phone provider through the IP phone controller and computer; and,
- (c) dialling the destination number from the remote telephone.

18. A method for obtaining internet data from a remote telephone comprising the steps of:

- (a) dialling a phone number for an internet protocol (IP) phone controller operatively connected to a computer and the internet;
- (b) accessing an internet data provider through the IP phone controller and computer; and,
- (c) instructing the internet data provider to download data to the computer.

19. A method as in claim 18 further comprising the step of formatting the downloaded data to a user selected format for delivery to the remote phone.

20. A method as in claim 19 where the data is delivered to the user as analog speech.

21. A communications system enabling voice communications over the internet between a local or remote phone and a destination phone comprising:
an internet protocol (IP) phone controller for operative connection to the local and remote phone;

a computer operatively connected to the internet, the computer having communications software for managing voice over internet protocol communications between the local and remote phone and a destination phone through the phone controller, the communications software having:

a menu system module, the menu system module enabling a user to select an internet phone provider and to dial a destination number after selection of an internet phone provider;

access to formatted internet data and delivery of the data to the user via a text-to-speech module,

wherein the destination phone is any one of a local or remote phone operatively connected to a destination IP phone controller and destination computer operatively connected to the internet or a wireless or wired destination phone operatively connected to the internet through a public switched telephone network.